

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 13, and 14. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication apparatus that performs data communication via a communication network, said apparatus comprising:

a packet transmitter adapted to transmit image data in packets and to transmit sound data in packets, wherein the sound data is divided into packets of invariable packet size and the image data is divided into packets of variable packet size;

a detector adapted to detect an amount of sound data to be transmitted in packets; and

E' a controller adapted to increase the variable packet size of the packets of image data to be transmitted and to decrease the amount of sound data to be transmitted by said packet transmitter, according to a decrease in the amount of sound data to be transmitted in packets, as detected by said detector,

wherein the image data is divided into packets dependent upon a ratio of an amount of image data to an amount of sound data.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said controller changes the packet size of the image data gradationally according to the amount of the sound data to be transmitted in packets.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said controller changes the packet size of the image data according to whether the amount of the sound data to be transmitted in packets is zero or non-zero.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising an image input unit for inputting the image data by photographing an image.

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Claim 5 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said image input unit includes one of a motion-picture camera and a still-picture camera.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a sound input unit for inputting the sound data.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said sound input unit includes a microphone.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a compression unit for compressing at least one of the image data and the sound data.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a receiver for receiving image data and sound data transferred in packets; and
a player unit for playing the image data and the sound data received by said receiver.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said player unit includes an expansion unit for expanding the received image data and the received sound data.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said player unit includes a display for visibly displaying an image corresponding to the received image data.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said player unit includes a speaker for outputting sound corresponding to the received sound data.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A communication method of performing data communication via a communication network, said method comprising:

a packet transmission step of transmitting image data in packets and

transmitting sound data in packets, wherein the sound data is divided into packets of invariable packet size and the image data is divided into packets of variable packet size;

a detection step of detecting an amount of sound data to be transmitted in packets; and

a control step of increasing the variable packet size of the packets of image data to be transmitted and decreasing an amount of sound data to be transmitted in said packet transmission step, according to a decrease in the amount of sound data to be transmitted in packets, as detected in said detection step,

wherein the image data is divided into packets dependent upon a ratio of an amount of image data to an amount of sound data.

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Claim 14 (currently amended): A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for performing data communication via a communication network, the program comprising:

program code for a packet transmission step of transmitting image data in packets and transmitting sound data in packets, wherein the sound data is divided into packets of invariable packet size and the image data is divided into packets of variable packet size;

program code for a detection step of detecting an amount of sound data to be transmitted in packets; and

program code for a control step of increasing the variable packet size of the packets of image data to be transmitted and decreasing an amount of sound data to be transmitted

in the packet transmission step, according to a decrease in the amount of sound data to be transmitted in packets, as detected in the detection step,

wherein the image data is divided into packets dependent upon a ratio of an amount of image data to an amount of sound data.